STATE OF ALABAMA ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

IN THE MATTER OF:	ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
WAP.PBPB.VIP,	NO. CD-2022-0005
TAO TAO, whose identity	
is otherwise unknown, and	
650 Other Trading Websites Purported to be)	
Established by TAO TAO)	
Identified in Attachment A to this Order)	
)	
RESPONDENTS	

CEASE AND DESIST ORDER

The Alabama Securities Commission ("Commission"), having the authority to administer and provide for the enforcement of all provisions of Title 8, Chapter 6, Code of Alabama 1975, the Alabama Securities Act ("Act"), upon due consideration of the subject matter hereof, has determined as follows:

RESPONDENTS

- 1. WAP.PBPB.VIP ("WAP.PBPB.VIP") is an online entity that purports to be an online crypto currency trading platform, having an unknown business address. WAP.PBPB.VIP is accessible via the website wap.pbpb.vip and may be served through its domain registrar NAMECHEAP INC located at 4600 East Washington Street, Suite 305, Phoenix, AZ 85034 via legal@namecheap.com.
- 2. **TAO TAO**, whose identity is otherwise unknown, is the owner of **WAP.PBPB.VIP** and the 650 other trading websites identified in Attachment A to this order. All 651 identified websites purport to be online crypto currency trading platforms and may be served through their domain registrar **NAMECHEAP INC** located at 4600 East Washington Street, Suite 305, Phoenix, AZ 85034 via legal@namecheap.com.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

- 3. On December 22, 2021, an Alabama resident filed a written complaint with the Commission regarding an investment made with a crypto currency trading platform named WAP.PBPB.VIP. The Alabama resident discovered the WAP.PBPB.VIP website by being referred to it by an alleged female acquaintance they met through a social media messaging application. The Alabama resident was led to believe by their acquaintance that WAP.PBPB.VIP conducted cryptocurrency over-the-counter trading for the short term by trading trends and nodes¹. Additionally, as a result of conducting the trading for the Alabama resident, the acquaintance and representatives from WAP.PBPB.VIP would earn five percent of the profits.
- 4. The Alabama resident created an account and began investing the stablecoin Tether (USDT). The Alabama resident invested 975 USDT on December 2, 2021 and received a return of 100 USDT on December 4, 2021. This convinced the Alabama resident the investment platform was profitable. As a result, the Alabama resident invested 4,175 USDT on December 5, 2021 and 29,988.01 USDT on December 17, 2021. The Alabama resident's account increased in value to approximately 68,841 USDT according to WAP.PBPB.VIP. On December 19, 2021 the Alabama resident attempted to withdraw their funds, but WAP.PBPB.VIP stated they must pay a personal income tax of 8,450.75 USDT to withdraw their funds. In addition, the funds could not come from the investor's gains. The Alabama resident was not made aware of this restriction prior to making their initial investment.
- 5. The Alabama resident communicated the issue of withdrawing their funds with their acquaintance, and the acquaintance stated they would pay 3,000 USDT of the 8,450.74 USDT to assist them in obtaining the funds. The Alabama resident deposited 5,450.75 USDT on December 19, 2021, to have their investment funds released. After the deposit, the funds were still not released, and the Alabama resident was unable to obtain control of their funds.
- 6. Records obtained during the investigation revealed the owner of the website was Namecheap Inc Username "taotao555666" with Namecheap Inc subscriber name of **TAO TAO**. It further revealed "taotao555666" had created 1,587 websites through Namecheap Inc. Of the

¹ Cryptocurrency nodes are participants in a blockchain network.

1,587 websites, 651 of them functioned and 650 of them operate in the same manner as **WAP.PBPB.VIP**. The 650 websites offer services for investment trading. The websites have similar names such as the changing of only a few characters, the same manner of headers, navigation bars, main menus, mega menus, feature images, hero images, and footers.

- 7. See Exhibit A for the remaining 650 websites that operate in the same manner as **WAP.PBPB.VIP**.
- 8. IP addresses analyzed that were used by "taotao555666" when logging in, conducting transactions, placing orders, and creating domains on Namecheap Inc. predominantly originated from Asia.
- On March 16, 2022, a review of the registration files of the Alabama Securities
 Commission revealed no registration for the RESPONDENTS in any capacity.
- 10. A review of the 651 websites that did function that were created by **TAO TAO** were checked in the National Futures Association (NFA) Basic database and none of the websites were registered.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

- 11. Pursuant to Section 8-6-2(10), <u>Code of Alabama</u>, <u>1975</u>, the definition of a security includes investment contracts and profit-sharing agreements. The investment plans outlined by **RESPONDENTS** require the investment of money in the investment program managed by **RESPONDENTS** from which the Alabama investor expected profits to be derived from the efforts of **RESPONDENTS** and are securities as defined by the Act.
- 12. Pursuant to Section 8-6-2(18), <u>Code of Alabama</u>, <u>1975</u>, an Investment Adviser is any person who, for compensation, advises others, either directly or indirectly, as to the value of, or the advisability of investing in securities. The definition includes those who manage portfolios or

the accounts of other investors. **RESPONDENTS** represented that they managed and traded the account of the Alabama investor and are Investment Advisers as defined in the Act.

- 13. Pursuant to Section 8-6-3(b), <u>Code of Alabama</u>, <u>1975</u>, it is unlawful for any person to transact business in this state as an Investment Adviser unless he or she is registered under the Act. **RESPONDENTS** are not registered as such with the Commission in violation of the Act.
- 14. Pursuant to Section 8-6-17(b)(2), <u>Code of Alabama</u>, <u>1975</u>, it is unlawful for any person who receives, directly or indirectly, any consideration from another person for advising the other person as to the value of securities or their purchase or sale, whether through the issuance of analyses or reports or otherwise to employ any device, scheme, or artifice to defraud the other person. **RESPONDENTS** promised excessive returns to investors, reported fictitious account values, and imposed undisclosed fees in violation of the Act.

This Order is appropriate in the public interest for the protection of investors and is consistent with the purposes of the Act.

This Order does not prevent the Commission from seeking such other civil or criminal remedies that may be available to it under the Alabama Securities Act.

Additionally, if the allegations set forth herein are found to be true, though either administrative adjudication, failure of the RESPONDENTS to make a timely request for hearing, or default of the RESPONDENTS, it is the intention of the Commission to impose sanctions upon the RESPONDENTS. Such sanctions may include, inter alia, an administrative assessment imposed on RESPONDENTS, an additional administrative assessment for investigative costs arising from the investigation of the violations described herein against RESPONDENTS, and a permanent order to bar RESPONDENTS from participation in any securities-related industry in the State of Alabama.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that RESPONDENTS CEASE AND

DESIST from further offers or sales of any security into, within or from the State of Alabama. Additionally, **RESPONDENTS** are **ORDERED** to **CEASE** providing investment advice.

Entered at Montgomery, Alabama, this 23rd day of MARCH, 2022.



ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION 445 Dexter Avenue, Suite 12000 Montgomery, AL 36104 (334) 242-2984

BY:

Edwin L. Reed

Deputy Director - Administration

IN THE MATTER OF: ORDER WAP.PBPB.VIP, TAO TAO, whose identity is otherwise unknown, and 650 Other Trading Websites Purported to be Established by TAO TAO Identified in Attachment A to this Order) RESPONDENTS

Exhibit A (page 1)

aavex.vip	anneot.vip	ba3392.com
aaccrer.vip	apenftpro.com	ba3521.vip
aaveap.vip	apenftswappro.com	ba3663.vip
aaves.vip	apenfwap.vip	ba3838.com
abbexy.vip	apoloniexy.vip	ba3883.vip
abbika.vip	asndems.com	ba4224.com
abbrxy.vip	asndex.com	ba4466.vip
abcosly.vip	asndexp.com	ba5211.vip
abitlus.vip	atenos.vip	ba5225.com
	atidext.vip	ba5512.vip
abitopy.vip	avest.vip	ba5596.vip
abittrexy.vip abtese.info	Mary South Committee of the Committee of	ba5662.vip
	awrssy.com	ba5665.com
acoiaget.vip	aztxs.vip	
acosst.vip	ba1338.com	ba5995.vip
actradeap.vip	ba1338.vip	ba6533.vip
acwgmano.vip	ba1388.com	ba6556.vip
adbexy.vip	ba1991.vip	ba6621.vip
aderibity.vip	ba1997.vip	ba6675.vip
adzaiff.vip	ba2123.vip	ba7761.com
aexap.vip	ba2233.vip	ba7763.com
aexs.vip	ba2311.vip	ba8118.com
aimsap.vip	ba2377.com	ba8221.vip
akbat.vip	ba2552.vip	ba8229.vip
akineprot.vip	ba2667.vip	ba8338.vip
alboge.com	ba2761.vip	ba8556.vip
alfexo.vip	ba2992.com	ba8778.vip
amdext.vip	ba2992.vip	ba9382.com
ameritdap.com	ba3113.vip	ba9559.vip
amertrap.vip	ba3211.vip	ba9696.vip
ameteory.vip	ba3221.vip	bbexcp.vip
ametrbp.com	ba3266.com	bbext.vip
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